

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: EDELSTAM TELLS PRESS HE IS MUZZLED BY HIS GOVERNMENT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN A WASHINGTON INTERVIEW WITH AFTONBLADET'S U.S. CORRESPONDENT ROLF SVENSSON, PUBLISHED TODAY, AMBASSADOR HARALD EDELSTAM SAYS HE IS BITTER BECAUSE HIS PLANNED STATEMENT BEFORE SENATE CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE HAS BEEN CENSORED BY SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON. EDELSTAM SAYS HE HAS ALSO MET WITH PRIME MINISTER PALME ON SUBJECT. THE REPORTER ASSERTS THAT EDELSTAM HAS BEEN TOLD NOT TO TOUCH ON WHAT HE SEES AS MOST IMPORTANT--HIS OPINION ABOUT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP, "WHICH REALLY IS WHAT THE CONFERENCE IS ALL ABOUT."

2. EDELSTAM IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "MY STATEMENT IS A SURRENDER. I MUST NOT SAY WHAT I REALLY WANT. MY STATEMENT IS A COMPROMISE AFTER A MEETING WITH SVEN ANDERSSON. I HAVE PROMISED NOT TO DISCUSS AMERICAN

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POLITICS IN CHILE. I WILL MAKE NO FURTHER COMMENT,"

EDELSTAM SAYS, "BUT I HAVE INFORMED SENATOR HAROLD HUGHES, ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE, THAT I WANT TO BE CALLED AMBASSADOR." THE ARTICLE MENTIONS THAT SWEDISH MFA IS SAID TO HAVE ASKED THAT EDELSTAM NOT BE CALLED AMBASSADOR BUT ONLY "MR EDELSTAM" AT THE CONFERENCE.

3. "MY APPEARANCE HERE IN WASHINGTON IS IMPORTANT," EDELSTAM SAYS, "EVEN IF I AM CONSCIOUS OF FACT THAT IT MIGHT BE INCONVENIENT FOR THE (SWEDISH) FOREIGN OFFICE. HOWEVER, IT DRAWS AMERICAN ATTENTION TO CHILE QUESTION AND MILITARY JUNATA IS EASILY INFLUENCED BY WHAT HAPPENS HERE." IF ASKED ABOUT THE USA'S CHILE POLICY AT CONFERENCE, EDELSTAM STATES HE WILL SAY: "UNFORTUNATELY, I REGRET THAT AS A SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL I CANNOT EXPRESS MY OPINION ON THAT SUBJECT."

4. ABOUT HIS OWN COLLEAGUES EDELSTAM SAYS: "MANY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S LEADERS WOULD MOST OF ALL LIKE TO BOOT ME IN THE REAR--TO BE PRECISE, THEY WISH ME TO GO TO HELL. BUT MANY OF THE YOUNGER ONES AGREE WITH AND SUPPORT ME...MANY OF THE SWEDISH HEADS OF MISSION ARE 'MUMMERS'--BOURGEOIS TYPES WHO DO NOT REPRESENT SWEDEN... OF FIFTY AMBASSADORS I ASSERT THAT ONLY TWO REPRESENT OUR GOVERNMENT, I.E. JEAN-CHRISTOPHE OBERG AND MYSELF." (NOTE: OBERG IS SWEDEN'S FLAMBOYANT AMBASSADOR IN HANOI.)
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COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW SVEN ANDERSSON AND OLOF PALME WILL REACT TO EDELSTAM'S REMARKABLE OUTBURST AGAINST HIS OWN SUPERIORS. AT LEAST THE INTERVIEW DEMONSTRATES PUBLICLY THAT, AS WE REPORTED, GOS HAS TRIED HARD TO PUT THE LID ON EDELSTAM.
OLSEN

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